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Lower Granite Dam lock goes back in service 17 days early

Walla Walla, Wash., -- The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operation division officials announced this afternoon that work on the Lower Granite Dam lock was complete and they were making the final preparations to open the navigation waterway to Lewiston, Idaho, this evening at 6 p.m.

"We're very pleased that we were able to open the lock 17 days early. Completion of the job ahead of schedule is a real bonus and minimizes the impact to river users, but we are most pleased that we did the job safely and well," said Bob Hollenbeck, project manager for the Lower Granite gate repair.

The navigation lock went out of service on Jan. 28 when the Corps and its prime contractor, Advanced American Diving, began working on the miter gate rehabilitation and repair effort. Reopening of the lock was scheduled for April 29.

The repairs to the lock were due to cracks in the gate that were discovered in 1998 during an annual inspection.

Lower Granite Lock and Dam went into service in 1975. The lock gate is 123 feet high and consists of two leaves. Each leaf weighs 372 tons. The cost of the contract to repair the gate was \$1.8 million.

For more information on Lower Granite Dam, visit <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil>.

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